

1. (amended) A recombinant nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding one or more toxic agents operably linked to a pathogen-specific or tissue-specific promoter, wherein the toxic agent is constructed into a sequence encoding a ribozyme cassette comprising one or more autocatalytically cleaving ribozyme sequences.

3. (amended) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the toxic agent is a toxic gene product.

10. (amended) [A] The nucleic acid of claim 7 [comprising the nucleotide sequence of] wherein the antisense RNA is a DicF1-like antisense RNA.

11. (amended) The nucleic acid of claim 2, wherein at least one toxic [agents] agent is [a] adjacent to trans-acting ribozyme and [a] at least one toxic agent is toxic gene product.

15. (amended) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the promoter is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial-specific promoter, a viral-specific promoter, a liver-specific promoter, a prostate-specific promoter, an epidermal-cell specific promoter, an [ilium-specific] ileum-specific promoter, a breast-specific, and a smooth muscle-specific promoter.

16. (amended) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the pathogen-specific promoter is selected from the group consisting of [a LEASHI promoter, a *rrnB* promoter,] an *anr* promoter (SEQ ID NO:3), a *ProC* promoter (SEQ ID NO:4), a *hla* promoter, a *SrcB* promoter and a *TSST-1* promoter (SEQ ID NO:6).

18. (amended) A vector comprising a recombinant nucleic acid encoding one or more toxic agents operably linked to a pathogen-specific or tissue-specific promoter, wherein the toxic agent is constructed into a sequence encoding a ribozyme cassette comprising one or more autocatalytically cleaving ribozyme sequences.

19. (amended) A modified virion comprising a recombinant nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding one or more toxic agents operably linked to a pathogen-specific or tissue-specific promoter, wherein the toxic agent is constructed into a sequence encoding a ribozyme cassette comprising one or more autocatalytically cleaving ribozyme sequences.

22. (amended) The bacteriophage of claim 20 which further comprises a mutated *pac* site (SEQ ID NO:8) or a mutated *pacABC* gene.

25. (amended) A method of inhibiting replication of a pathogen in a subject, comprising administering to said subject a recombinant nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding one or more toxic agents operably linked to a pathogen-specific or tissue-specific promoter, wherein the toxic agent is constructed into a sequence encoding a ribozyme cassette comprising one or more autocatalytically cleaving ribozyme sequences.

27. (amended) A method of inhibiting replication of a pathogen in a subject, comprising administering to said subject a modified virion comprising a recombinant nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding one or more toxic agents operably linked to a pathogen-specific or tissue-specific promoter, wherein the toxic agent is constructed into a sequence encoding a ribozyme cassette comprising one or more autocatalytically cleaving ribozyme sequences.

Please add the following new claims:

Rule 1.21 31. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the ribozyme cassette comprises a 5' autocatalytically cleaving ribozyme sequence and a 3' autocatalytically cleaving ribozyme sequence.

32. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein one or more autocatalytically cleaving ribozymes has enhanced cleavage activity.